Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 106 with the following amended paragraph:

Detection of IL-27 and WSX-1 mRNA Levels. IL-27 and WSX-1 levels were determined by RT-PCR. For *ex vivo* analysis of mRNA expression following *T. gondii* infection, whole splenocytes were isolated from wild type mice that had been infected for 0 (uninfected) and 7 days. For *ex vivo* analysis of mRNA expression following *T. muris* infection, mRNA was isolated from whole mesenteric lymph node (hereinafter "MLN") cell suspensions using ~~Trizol~~ TRIZOL®. After using standard procedures known in the art for isolating mRNA, PCR was utilized for 34 cycles: 95[E]ºC, 30 seconds/60[E]ºC 30 seconds/72[E]ºC 1 minute, to quantify message levels. β-actin expression was used as an internal control to assure equal loading of every reaction. Primers specific for IL-27p28 (two 20-mers), EBI3 (one 20-mer and one 23-mer), and WSX-1 (two 20-mers) were used. Specific sequences are found in Applicants' publication, Villarino, et al., *The IL-27R (WSX-1) Is Required to Suppress T Cell Hyperactivity during Infection*, Immunity, 19:645-655 (2003), which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 107 with the following amended paragraph:

Ex vivo Activation and Proliferation Analyses. Splenocytes were stained directly *ex vivo* for surface expression of activation markers CD25 (PE) and CD62L (APC) in combination with either CD4 or CD8 (FITC)(BD Pharmingen). For BrdU incorporation studies, mice were treated with BrdU (0.8 mg/mouse i.p.) for 3 days prior to analysis. At the indicated time points after infection, mesenteric lymph nodes were isolated and cells were stained for surface expression of CD4 or CD8 prior to fixation. To detect incorporated BrdU, cells were permeabilized with ~~Tween-20~~ TWEEN®-20(.05%), treated with DNAse I solution, and stained with a FITC-conjugated _BrdU mAb (BD Pharmingen).

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 110 with the following amended paragraph:

Estimation of parasite specific IgG2α responses. Parasite-specific IgG2α responses were determined by capture ELISA. ~~Immulon~~ IMMULON®IV plates were coated with *T.*

muris ES Ag, 5 g/ml, in carbonate/bicarbonate buffer overnight at 4 C. After blocking, 3% BSA in PBS, 0.05% Tween, eight serial 2-fold dilutions of sera, from an initial 20-fold dilution, were added to the plates. Parasite-specific antibody was detected using biotinylated rat α-mouse IgG2α in combination with streptavadin-HRP.